

NOV 28 2006

Docket No. J11L08

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**REMARKS****Status of the Application**

Claims 1-7 were previously pending. Claims 1-7 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lasch et al. (US 6,677,028).

Applicant has amended claims 1 by combining the content of claim 6 and, accordingly claim 6 has been canceled. New claims 8-9 have been added to more fully protect the invention. No new matter adds through the amendments. For the reasons discussed below, withdrawal of the rejections is requested.

**Claim Rejections- 35 U.S.C. 103(a)**

Claims 1-7 were previously pending. Claims 1-7 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lasch et al. (US 6,677,028).

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection for the reasons discussed below. Nevertheless, claim 1 has been amended.

Lasch teaches a retroreflective article that comprises multilayer films having at least one layer of polyurethane and at least one layer of a copolymer of alkylene and at least one non-acidic, polar co-monomer. See Abstract. Figs. 8-10 of Lasch show a roll-up sign article, wherein the flexible retroreflective article (roll-up sign article) 80 having multilayer film(s) (81, 82, 83) is mounted on a flexible scrim-reinforced backing member 88. Col. 16, lines 20-22. The backing member 88 includes scrim 85 (including multifilament strands 86) and backing layer 87. Col. 16, lines 45-46. Clearly, the retroreflective article of Lasch is significantly different from the luminescent vest of the present invention both structurally and functionally. Firstly, the retroreflective article of Lasch is to reflect light, not to emit light as the luminescent vest of the present invention does. Secondly, the woven layer of the luminescent vest of the present invention contains plastic optical fibers for transmitting light. Lasch never teaches that the filament strands 86 are optical fibers. In fact, the filament strands 86 as part of the scrim 85 are used to reinforce the backing member 88 (Col. 16, lines 20-22). Thirdly, in the present invention as defined in claims 1 and 7, the top layer is a transparent plastic film layer so that light emitted from the optical fibers in the middle layer can be transmitted out through the top transparent

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layer. Lasch does not teach that the top multilayer film(s) (81, 82, 83) of the retroreflective article 80 is transparent. In fact, Lasch teaches the opposite. On Col. 21, lines 4-7, Lasch specifically teaches that "control of temperature and pressure should be maintained so that the scrim pattern is not seen through the viewing surface of the completed roll-up sign".

Furthermore, the optical bundle in the middle layer of the present invention is coupled to a light-emitting unit to guide and project light. Lasch certainly fails to teach or even remotely suggest such a feature.

For at least the reasons discussed above, claims 1 and 7 are patentable over Lasch. Claims 2-5 depend on claim 1 and, thus, are also patentable for at least the same reasons.

#### New Claims

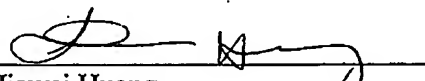
New claims 8-9 depend on claim 1 and contain features that further distinguish over the cited prior art.

#### Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the remaining claims are now in condition for allowance. Allowance of this application is earnestly solicited.

Respectively submitted

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